

Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

Contents this week:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Shifting adult corrections to county control

DEMOGRAPHY

Widening wage gap

ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT

Incarceration's effects on economic mobility

Unemployment rate settling

EDUCATION

Disparities in college graduation rates

Transition strategies boost CA graduation rates

Middle school's effect on academic performance

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Forecast: sharp decline in state revenue

HEALTH

AIDS hospitalization rates declining

HUMAN SERVICES

Voucher households grow less self-sufficient

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Recruiting minorities for CEO positions

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

***Rethinking the State-Local Relationship: Corrections.* By Dean Misczynski. Public Policy Institute of California. Aug. 2011. 35 p.**

http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/report/R_811DMR.pdf

California is pursuing a vast and historic change to its adult corrections system. Shifting responsibility for low-level felons from the state to the counties addresses both legal and budgetary issues. Currently, counties are set to receive more than \$1 billion in state funds to carry out the realignment program. Counties will be under heavy scrutiny. Further, counties will be expected to do things differently than the state has in terms of providing alternative sanctions, rehabilitation programs, and shorter sentences for felons. There are many questions that need to be studied and answered over the coming years, including impact on crime rate, issues around rehabilitation, financing, and equity of treatment of offenders.

DEMOGRAPHY

A Generation of Widening Inequality. The California Budget Project. Nov. 2011. 67 p.
http://cbp.org/pdfs/2011/111101_A_Generation_of_Widening_Inequality.pdf

“The gap between California's low-wage and high-wage workers widened during the past generation. California's high-wage workers made significant gains over the past three decades, while workers at the low end and middle of the earnings distribution lost ground.... The inflation-adjusted hourly wage of the state's low-wage workers – those at the 20th percentile of distribution – was \$10.57 in 2010, 9.0% lower than in 1979 (\$11.62).”

ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT

Collateral Costs: Incarceration's Effect on Economic Mobility. By the Economic Mobility Project and the Public Safety Performance Project of The Pew Charitable Trusts. 2010. 44 p.
http://www.economicmobility.org/assets/pdfs/EMP_Incarceration.pdf

“Over the past 30 years, the United States has experienced explosive growth in its incarcerated population. The Pew Center on the States reported in 2008 that more than 1 in 100 adults is now behind bars in America, by far the highest rate of any nation. The direct cost of this imprisonment boom, in dollars, has been staggering: state correctional costs quadrupled over the past two decades and now top \$50 billion a year, consuming 1 in every 15 general fund dollars. This report focuses on the intersection of incarceration and mobility, fields that might at first seem unrelated: to what extent does incarceration create lasting barriers to economic progress for formerly incarcerated people, their families and their children? And, What do these barriers mean for the American Dream, given the explosive growth of the prison population?”

Economic Growth and the Unemployment Rate. By Linda Levine. Congressional Research Service. Oct. 28, 2011. 9 p.
<http://www.fas.org/sqp/crs/misc/R42063.pdf>

“Despite the resumption of economic (output) growth in June 2009, the unemployment rate remains at an historically high level more than two years into the recovery from the 11th recession of the postwar period. The unemployment rate, which is the number of unemployed persons divided by the number of persons in the labor force, has settled at about 9.0% during the first three quarters of 2011.”

EDUCATION

Completing College: Assessing Graduation Rates At Four-Year Institutions. By Linda DeAngelo, et al. Higher Education Research Institute at UCLA. Nov. 2011. 61 p.
<http://heri.ucla.edu/pr-display.php?prQry=80>

Items important to graduation speed and success are often not part of a school's graduation promotion agenda. Early college visits, club and activity participation, a sense of belonging, and Internet use in homework and research all help students graduate earlier. Overall, graduation rates are up from a decade ago — nearly four in 10 students (39%) graduate in four years today compared to 36% of students who started college in 1994. However, 56.4% of students now take five years to graduate. Disparities in graduation rates by ethnicity and gender persist and the gaps are increasing. It is hardest for first-generation students: only 27.4% of these students earn a degree after four years compared to 42% of students whose parents attended college.

***Making the Move: Transition Strategies at California Schools with High Graduation Rates.* By Tom Parrish, et al. WestEd. Oct. 2011. 29 p.**

http://www.cacompcenter.org/pdf/CA_CC_Transitions_Report_Final.pdf

California high schools with higher graduation rates than statistically predicted participate in specific practices to transition middle school students to high school. These practices include: working to connect students to the high school culture, identifying struggling students prior to the high school transition, connecting all students with a caring staff member, and instituting strong, individually focused counseling programs. Additionally, teachers and administrators from the feeder junior high schools communicate frequently with administrators and teachers in the high schools. This study is a small case study, concentrating on four high schools and their feeder junior high schools.

***The Impact of Alternative Grade Configurations on Student Outcomes through Middle and High School.* By Guido Schwerdt, et al. Harvard Kennedy School. Nov. 2011. 49 p.**

http://www.hks.harvard.edu/pepg/PDF/Papers/PEPG11-02_Schwerdt_West.pdf

Using longitudinal performance data from Florida, it was found that students who transition to middle school for sixth or seventh grade experience a sharp drop in academic performance during the transition year. This drop persists through tenth grade. Middle school (schools for 6-8 grades) is associated with high absenteeism and higher dropout rates by tenth grade when compared with students who attended a K-8 school. Students attending a K-8 school experienced a small academic performance drop in ninth grade, but this drop was not persistent.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***The 2012-13 Budget: California's Fiscal Outlook.* Legislative Analyst's Office. Nov. 2011. 46 p.**

http://www.lao.ca.gov/reports/2011/bud/fiscal_outlook/fiscal_outlook_2011.pdf

"A report released by state budget analysts on Wednesday forecasts a sharp decline in revenue for this fiscal year, which could set off more than \$2 billion in new cuts in state spending in January, including a seven-day reduction in the school year for public school students. The report by the Legislative Analyst's Office projected that the state would fall \$3.7 billion short of the \$88.5 billion in revenues and transfers that was anticipated in the 2011-12 state budget approved in June. Under the terms of that budget, automatic reductions ... go into effect if revenues fall \$1 billion or more short of projections. There is still one more step in this process to determine where the cuts will come. Next month, the Finance Department will offer its own analysis of revenues for the year; the final trigger cuts will be based on whichever revenue forecast is higher." (*New York Times*, Nov. 16, 2011).

HEALTH

Trends in the Hospitalization of Persons Living with HIV/AIDS in California, 1988 to 2008.

California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development. Nov. 2011. 16 p.

http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HID/Products/Health_Facts/HealthFacts_HIV_AIDS_Web.pdf

"The pool of people in California that could be hospitalized with a diagnosis of HIV infection (that is, the number of persons living with HIV/AIDS) continually grew between 1988 and 2008, from 37,000 to more than 107,000.... Although the number of persons living with HIV/AIDS grew, their hospitalization rate declined ... from a high of 400 per 1,000 cases to under 200."

HUMAN SERVICES

Large Majority of Housing Voucher Recipients Work, Are Elderly, or Have Disabilities. By Barbara Sard, et al. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Dec. 2011. 15 p.

<http://www.cbpp.org/files/12-2-11hous.pdf>

While policymakers are interested in increasing self-sufficiency of recipients of housing assistance, analysis of data submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) may make this difficult. Among the major findings: In 2010, almost 90% of all voucher households were elderly, disabled, working (or had recently been working), or likely to be subject to a work requirement under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. Nearly half of all voucher households were elderly or disabled, a significant increase from a decade ago.

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Practical Resources for Recruiting Minorities for Chief Executive Officers at Public Transportation Agencies. By The Transportation Research Board of the National Academies. TCRP Report 148. Nov. 2011. 52 p.

http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/tcrp/tcrp_rpt_148.pdf

This report assesses the transit industry's recruitment processes for chief executive officers (CEOs) and provides a case for diversity that documents the benefits of minorities in public transportation leadership positions. It also suggests strategies to recruit minorities for CEO positions, offers resources to assist governing boards of public transportation agencies in minority recruitment, and describes strategies for retaining CEOs at public transportation agencies.

About *Studies in the News*

Studies in the News (SITN) is a service provided to the Legislature, the Governor's Office, and State Constitutional Officers by the California Research Bureau, a section of the California State Library.

- SITN lists of current studies related to public policy issues are e-mailed periodically. Prior lists can be viewed at the California State Library's website at <http://www.library.ca.gov/sitn/crb>.
- To change your e-mail address, or add/remove your name from the *Studies in the News* distribution list, please contact us at crb@library.ca.gov or (916) 319-2691.
- *Studies in the News* is available as an RSS feed at <http://www.library.ca.gov/sitn/crb/>.